

What is claimed is:

1. A method of inhibiting B-cell growth in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:
  - 5 (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;
  - (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
  - (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.
- 10 2. A method of inhibiting immunoglobulin production in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:
  - 15 (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;
  - (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
  - (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.
- 20 3. A method of inhibiting dendritic cell-induced B-cell growth and maturation in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:
  - 25 (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;
  - (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
  - (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.
4. A method of treatment of an autoimmune disease comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:
  - 30 (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;

- (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
- (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

5 5. A method of treating hypertension in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;
- (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
- (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

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6. A method of treating renal disorders in an animal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;
- (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
- (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

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7. A method of treating B-cell lympho-proliferate disorders comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;
- (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
- (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

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8. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is soluble.

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9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the soluble BAFF-R polypeptide comprises a BAFF-R extracellular domain.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein the BAFF-R extracellular domain is fused to an immunoglobulin.
11. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:
  - 5 a) an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;
  - b) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;
  - 10 c) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;
  - d) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof; and
  - 15 e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof.
12. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog is a monoclonal antibody.
13. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog comprises BCMA-IgG.
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14. A method according to claims 1 to 7, wherein the animal is a mammal.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the mammal is human.
16. A method of treating, suppressing or altering an immune response involving a signaling pathway between a BAFF-R and BAFF comprising the step of administering an effective amount of an agent capable of interfering with the association between the BAFF-R and BAFF.
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17. A method of inhibiting inflammation comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody specific for a BAFF-R or an active fragment thereof.

18. A method of inhibiting inflammation comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody specific for a BAFF-R or an epitope thereof.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide or a fragment thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- 10 a) an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;
- b) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;
- 15 c) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;
- d) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof; and
- 20 e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof.

21. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide fragment comprises a BAFF-R extracellular domain fused to an immunoglobulin.